

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01

DRC-01 /186 W

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R 181615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 371

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4698

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF MO

SUBJECT: JEWISH COMMUNITY IN MOROCCO

1. WE UNDERSTAND MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES, CONCERNED ABOUT ESPIONAGE, ARE WATCHING MOVEMENTS LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CLOSELY. THERE HAS BEEN NO HARASSMENT TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALTHOUGH OUR LOCAL JEWISH EMPLOYEES ARE NERVOUS AND REPORT THEY HAVE BEEN WARNED UNPLEASANT INCIDENTS LIKELY WHEN MOROCCAN CASUALTIES AT FRONT BECOME KNOWN LOCALLY. RUMORS THAT SUCH CASUALTIES ARE HEAVY ARE NOW CIRCULATING WIDELY BUT SEEM TO BE TAKEN RATHER CALMLY.

2. POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF SURVEILLANCE IS FACT ONE OF OUR JEWISH EMPLOYEES WHO TRIED LEAVE, ALLEGEDLY FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT IN SPAIN, WAS TURNED BACK AT CEUTA BORDER OCTOBER 6. HE FINALLY MANAGED GET OUT FROM CASABLANCA AIRPORT OCTOBER 13. WE ASSUME HE GONE FOR GOOD AND THAT MEDICAL TREATMENT WAS MERELY EXCUSE. ANOTHER OF OUR JEWISH EMPLOYEES ALLEGEDLY PLANS TRY THE CEUTA ROUTE THIS WEEKEND AND HOPES LEAVE PERMANENTLY.

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3. ANSWER TO QUESTION POSED BY JEWISH AGENCIES SEEMS TO BE

THAT WHILE NOT ACTUALLY PREVENTING JEWISH EMIGRATION, MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES ARE MONITORING IT VERY CLOSELY AND DELAYS CAN PROBABLY BE EXPECTED. GIVEN PAST HISTORY OF ROYAL PROTECTION FOR JEWS, GOM WILL PROBABLY DO ITS BEST TO PROTECT LOCAL COMMUNITY IN EVENT TROUBLE, BUT FACT THAT MOROCCO IS NOW ONE OF THE COMBATTANTS WITH TROOPS IN THE LINE MAKES DIFFERENCE IN LOCAL ATTITUDES LIKELY.

4. JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE REP ENGEL IN CASABLANCA MAY BE ABLE SAY MORE ABOUT PROBLEM AND SUGGEST CONGEN DISCUSS REFTTEL WITH HIM.
PARKER

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